

Glenoldern, PA -- On Sunday, March 25, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), a former 3-Star Admiral, attended a ceremony at the Briarcliff American Legion Hall in Glenolden honoring Eagle Scout recipient Edward E. Vogel III.

At the event, Joe — a former Cub Scout— talked about the importance of service:

“Dr. Martin Luther King reminded us that everyone can be great, because anyone can serve,” noted Joe. “Edward answered this call to service, and I am proud today to join his family and friends and members of this community in honoring him on his wonderful achievement.”

Edward Vogel, a 10th Grade Honor Roll Student at Cardinal O’Hara High School, has been in the Scouts since the age of 6 and is the son of Edward and Cynthia Vogel. He is currently is Troop Scribe for Troop 301, which requires that he keep the records for his troop, the activities of the Patrol Leaders’ Council Meetings, and keep records on his troop’s attendance and how well they wear their uniforms at the troop meetings. For his Eagle Scout Project, Edward organized the building of six heavy-duty wooden benches for the John Heinz National Wildlife Center in Tinicum. To do so, he had to recruit local business in the area to donate the materials and supplies. In addition, William has held the position of Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He was awarded the Union League of Philadelphia Citizenship Award in May 2006.

“Service organizations such as the Boy Scouts produce so many of our future leaders like Edward,” stated Joe at the ceremony. “These community efforts are ones that truly symbolize the principles our country values and are ones that I learned in the Navy: duty, honor, courage.”

According to the Boy Scouts of America, the fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

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